113

1948

E

GENERAL

E 2210

17 FEB 1948

Registry Number: E2210/11/65

TELEGRAM FROM
Mr. Broadmead, Damascus

No. 95

Dated 16.2.48

Received in Registry 17.2.48

Arab incursions into Palestine

Refers to Damascus telegram No.87 (E2186/11/65) SyrianMinister of Defence has suggested that some method of certain identification of British personnel should be instituted in order to prevent the Arab mistaking British troops for Jews.

Repeated to Jerusalem and B.M.E.O.

Last Paper.

E 2190

References.

(Minutes.)

Pal. circulation

Draft submitted. C.O. concur.

H. Beeley 20/2

(Print.)

This is potentially a matter of importance, as it deals with the possibility of saving British lives. I think we should first get the views of the H.C. and of the Min of Defence or C.O.

BABB

21.2

(How disposed of.)

8) Col. Sherman, Cabinet Office
Mr. Mathieson, C.O.
Mr. Scherr, M.15.
M.I. 3a W.O.
M.O.4. W.O.
Air Ministry
Admiralty 23 Feb

8) Mr. Wolcott
Room 342.
Colonial Office
Church House
27 Feb.

Tel) Damascus No. 111
Repeat Jerusalem
BMEO No. 173
25 Feb

Now see High Com miss circis telegram no. 423. I have consulted the War Office, who with their agree that the suggestion is impracticable.

H. Beeley 24/2

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E 2246

30471 F.O.P

I have somewhat revised the draft.
BABurrows 25.2.

PTO

See within
Palestine tel. no. 423 of 20 Feb.

H73. 287/2

8) M/Defence
War Office
Colonial Office

Feb 27

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

E 22 FO

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

17 FEB 1948

Mr. Broadmead
No. 95
16th February, 1948.

D. 1.07 p.m. 16th February, 1948.
R. 3.15 p.m. 16th February, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem
B.M.E.O. Cairo

IMPORTANT
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 95 of February 16th repeated to Jerusalem and British Middle East Office Cairo.

My telegram No. 87. E 2186/11/65 19/2

Syrian Minister of Defence in conversation with Oriental Secretary yesterday reverted to danger of Arab irregulars mistaking British troops for Jews. He suggested that some method of certain identification of British personnel was urgently required and asked that a pass word should be chosen daily. He would then communicate this to the irregular leaders and the Arabs would not fire on any-one using the pass word.

2. I do not know whether the Minister's suggestion is feasible but I believe it was made in a genuine endeavour to prevent further attacks on British military transport by Arabs.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

F F F F

Registry
No. E2210/11/65

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

BABB

CYPHER

25th February, 1948.

F.O.,

194 .

Despatched M.

Draft.

DAMASCUS

Telegram.

No. 111

(Date) Feb. 25th

Repeat to :—

JERUSALEM

B.M.E.O. 173

~~Important~~
~~Secret~~

addressed to Damascus tel no 111 of 25th Feb
repeated for information to Jerusalem and B.M.E.O.

Your tel. No.95 [of February 16 : Arab attacks on British personnel].

War Office agree with Jerusalem telegram No.422 to you that proposal is impracticable. Adoption of it would also seem likely to endanger our attitude of neutrality and impartiality. Please inform Syrian Minister of Defence that we very much appreciate the motives which led him to make the suggestion and that it has been carefully considered by all the British authorities concerned who agree, however, that practical difficulties must unfortunately prevent its implementation.

[Copy sent to M.E Secretariat]

MCLs
25.2.

BABBurrows
25.2

~~En Clair.~~
~~Code.~~
Cypher.

Distribution :—

Departmental

Copies to :—

Min of Defence
C.O.
W.O.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(33054) Wt.14696/147 100,000 6/47 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

E2210/11/65.
Secret.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO DAMASCUS

No. 111.
February 25th,1948. D. 3.45.a.m. February 26th,1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem
B.M.E.O. Cairo No. 173.

IMPORTANT.

SECRET

Addressed to Damascus telegram No. 111 of February 25th, repeated for information to Jerusalem and B.M.E.O. Cairo.

Your telegram No. 95 [of February 16th: Arab attacks on British personnel].

War Office agree with Jerusalem telegram No. 422 to you that proposal is impracticable. Adoption of it would also seem likely to endanger our attitude of neutrality and impartiality. Please inform Syrian Minister of Defence that we very much appreciate the motives which led him to make the suggestion and that it has been carefully considered by all the British authorities concerned who agree, however, that practical difficulties must unfortunately prevent its implementation.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

6 6 6 6 6

COLONIAL OFFICE TELEGRAM

Pass W.O.

F 2210 / 11 / 65

Cypher (O.T.P.)

8 - 2 - 48

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 20th February, 1948.
R. 20th " " 12.40 hrs.

No. 423

Addressed to H.M. Minister Damascus No. 442.

Repeated to the S. of S.
" " B.M.E.O. No. 28.

Your telegram No. 95 addressed to the Foreign Office, repeated to me and B.M.E.O.

Identification of British personnel by Arab irregulars.

Suggestion of the Syrian Minister of Defence has been examined but I regret that it is not considered a practicable one.

Copies sent to :-

Foreign Office - Mr. Beeley.